

HIS 364G/AFR 374C: African History in Films and Photographs

Tue/Thur 11:00-12:30 UTC 3.104

Instructor: Toyin Falola

Office: GAR 2.142

Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:00 P.M.

Email: toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu

Teaching Assistant: Adam Paddock

Office: BUR 412

Office Hours:

Email: apaddock@mail.utexas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Western exposure to Africa has primarily been through stylized Hollywood films which rarely offer any historical context for the events they depict. These films have led to an overall lack of understanding for the complexities of African history and had detrimental effects on popular conceptions of Africa, its peoples, and its plights. This course seeks to increase the understanding of the social, economic, and political challenges present throughout Africa's history through an examination of several documentaries and popular films. Each film will serve a twofold purpose. First, it will be a case study used to speak to an issue central to the history of Africa, and second, aid in dispelling many of the misconceptions present in popular portrayals of the continent and its peoples. Each film, where possible, will be accompanied by a text that corresponds with the subject matter. It is the intention of these texts to speak to events and the major themes of African history. The ultimate goal of these films, lectures, and discussions is to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of Africa, its societies, cultures, governments, and histories.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase the knowledge and understanding of African history, culture, and society.
2. To identify key themes in African history that transcend national boundaries.
3. To help students understand the social, cultural, political, and economic agents which have influenced Africa's history.
4. To assess the viability of film as a historical source.
5. To understand perceptions about Africa and how they lead to misunderstandings of the past.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Toyin Falola, *Key Events in African History: A Reference Guide* (Westport, Conn: Greenwood, 2002). (hereafter listed as *Key Events*)

Toyin Falola and Adam Paddock, *The Women's War of 1929: A History of Anti-Colonial Resistance* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2011). (hereafter listed as *Women's War*)

Students can purchase their books from the University Co-op or other book stores on campus. If any problems arise, please contact:

University Co-op, Textbook Dept.
2244 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78705
Phone: (512) 476-7211 x8108

Additional film or book material can be purchased through a number of online vendors.

***The third required book for this class is chosen from the list below and depends on the final project the student chooses.

One of the Following Books is Mandatory:

It is recommended that you wait to purchase one of the following books until you know what you are interested in writing about for your review paper. Refer to the project choices to see which films the books correspond to.

Davidson, Basil. *African Civilization Revisited: From Antiquity to Modern Times*. New York, African World Press, 1990.

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. New York: Modern Library, 1999.

Van Woerden, Henk. *A Mouthful of Glass*. London: Granta Books, 2000.

Biko, Steve. *I Write What I Like: Selected Writings*. London: Bowerdean Press, 1978.

Gourevitch, Philip. *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our Families: Stories from Rwanda*. New York: Picador, 1998.

Eggers, David. *What is the What?* New York, First Vintage Books, 2006.

Maathai, Wangari. *Unbowed: A Memoir*. New York: Random House, 2006.

ASSSIGNMENTS:

Assignment	Due Date	Grade Percentage (100%)
Public Lecture Review	Sep. 23	100 points
Exam #1	Oct. 19	200 points
Exam #2	Dec. 2	200 points
Response Paper	Nov. 10	200 points
Blackboard Discussions /Attendance	See syllabus for deadlines	100 points

Calculating Your Grade:

To calculate your grade simply divide the amount of points scored for an assignment by the total number of point scored up to that point. For example, if you score 80 points on the first

assignment, the score would be 80%. If you scored an 85 on the first assignment and 150 on the second assignment, add the total points scored (235) and divide by the total number of points scored to that point (300) which gives a grade of 78.3%. Grades will be tracked on blackboard and made available a week after the assignments are returned.

Attendance Guidelines:

Students must be present to view each film: therefore, attendance is mandatory. Late attendance will disturb the class. You must arrive on time. Make-ups will be granted only in the case of medical illness or university-related conflict. Such conflicts will require signed documentation from the Dean's Office explaining the reason for your absence and the student to view the missed film at the Fine Arts Library. Cell phones must be off and there should be no talking in class during film viewing. If you would like to hold a conversation you should step out of the lecture hall. To get full points for attendance (40 points) you may only miss 2 classes without a documented absence.

Public Lecture Review Guidelines:

All students must attend the African Distinguished Lecture (additional information will be announced in class). During the lecture, students will be allowed to ask the speaker questions pertaining to the topic. For the review, students will be expected to fulfill a two-fold task. First, summarize the lecture in no more than one page (roughly 300 words); second, give your opinion of the lecture in no less than one page (roughly 300 words). Your papers must be stapled. The report will be due one week after the lecture. No email submissions will be accepted. Your lecture reviews will be worth 100 points of your final grade.

Exam Guidelines:

There will be two exams during the semester consisting of long essay questions and short answer identifications. Each exam will be worth 200 points of your final grade. (A study guide will be posted on blackboard one week prior to the exam date).

Response Paper Guidelines:

Each student is required to write response paper that incorporates two films and a selected reading. The student has several options to choose from for the second film and the selected reading. See the list at the end for details.

Reviews must be between 1200 and 1500 words, typed, double-spaced and stapled.

Reviews should be analytical, and not just a retelling of the book and film narratives. You must analyze the film in your own words and critically examine the historical content, style and the overall impression these had on you. Additionally, you will need to incorporate examples and evidence from the readings that either support or contradict the film. Feel free to express your own opinion, but do so clearly with a well supported argument. Organize and develop the main points you wish to make and re-emphasize them in a conclusion.

Do not simply reiterate the story lines, but discuss the context, style and perspective of the films, and how the book either supports or refutes these themes. (Additional materials will be posted on blackboard to assist you with this project).

Proofread your review before submitting it.

Turn your review in on time (that means at the beginning of class). Late reviews will be penalized five points for each calendar day late (not class day). After three days late, a grade of zero will be given. Emailed submissions will not be accepted. Your review will be worth 200 points of your final grade.

Blackboard Discussions:

Students are required to respond to discussion board assignments throughout the semester and read and respond to two of their classmates' posts. Discussion posts need to be approximately 6 sentences in length (150 words), and reflect the topic of discussion and engage the course material. All posts must conform to proper etiquette and show respect for fellow students and the subject matter. Any student who violates appropriate university rules of conduct will be subject to removal from the class. The discussion board posts are worth 60 points of your final grade. The points are earned or not earned – there are no partial points. To get the points for each post you must fully engage the question and meet the length requirement and you must respond to two classmates with each assignment. No late posts will receive credit. This is the only assignment that cannot be turned in late. There will be a one week window in which to complete these posts.

Extra Credit Policy:

There will be no extra credit for this class. The discussion board assignments and attendance are free points. All they require is for you to participate and follow instructions.

Format Guidelines:

All assignments must be stapled, typed, double spaced, have 1” margins and size 12 Times New Roman font. Assignments that do not follow these guidelines will not be accepted.

Part of writing history includes clearly communicating your ideas. As such, written assignments must conform to standard rules of written English including the organization of essays and grammar. Students who require assistance can use the undergraduate writing center in the FAC free of charge. There will also be additional materials posted on blackboard for your assistance.

Plagiarism:

How do you avoid committing plagiarism? Here are some basic tips:

1. Historians use a variety of citation formats, including footnotes, endnotes, and indicating their source directly in their text within parentheses. Within those formats, they use a variety of styles. For this class, you will be using the Chicago Manual Style for the response paper. A guide will be posted on blackboard.
2. Take notes carefully. Whenever you copy a direct quotation, protect yourself by putting quotation marks around it. Attach a full, accurate citation to any borrowed passage, whether quoted or paraphrased, and keep it attached as you write.
3. Although borrowed ideas must be fully acknowledged in a citation, you do not need to provide a citation for information that your reader can reasonably be expected to know. When in doubt, include a citation.
4. You can avoid plagiarism by learning how to paraphrase. It is much easier to avoid plagiarism that involves verbatim copying or handing in the same paper twice than it is to avoid plagiarism that involves paraphrase, probably the trickiest area of all. Certainly it is the area where most instances of plagiarism occur. Plagiarism includes taking direct quotes or ideas from a source without giving the original author credit through a citation.

Class Policies:

- **Policy on Late or Missed Assignments/Examinations:** Make-ups will be granted only in the case of medical illness or university-related conflict. Make-ups will only be given when a request is made prior to the date of the exam or assignment except for documented medical emergencies. Even with prior notice, an alternative exam date will only be given in extreme documented cases.
- **Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted on due dates. Assignments turned in late will incur a penalty of 5 points per calendar day late. Assignments more than three calendar days late will not be graded and will receive a zero for the assignment.
- **University of Texas Honor Code:** The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an “F” in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.
- **Use of Class Materials:** No material presented in lecture may be directly or indirectly published, posted to the Internet, or rewritten for publication or distribution in any medium. Neither these materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and non-commercial use. All information derived from the internet must be adequately cited.

- **Student Privacy:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) require that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student's performance with parents, spouses, or any others.
- **Documented Disability Statement:** The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone). Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter from the Service for Students with Disabilities. This letter should be presented to the Professor at the beginning of the semester and the specific accommodations discussed at this time. Five days prior to an exam, it is the student's responsibility to remind the professor of the accommodations needed. If the student fails to produce the letter and speak with the Professor five days before the exam, then the student may not get the accommodations he/she requires.

GRADING SCALE:

93-100: A 90-92: A-
 87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80-82: B-
 77-79: C+ 73-76: C 70-72: C-
 67-69: D+ 63-66: D 60-62: D- 0-59: F

Writing Assignment Options for the Response Paper

Option 1: African Civilizations (used with *Lost Kingdoms of Africa*)

FILM: *Egypt: The Habit of Civilization* (VIDCASS 3133)

BOOK: Davidson, Basil. *African Civilization Revisited: From Antiquity to Modern Times*. New York, African World Press, 1990. (required, p. 1 – 166).

Option 2: Colonialism in Africa (used with *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*)

FILM: *This Magnificent African Cake* (VIDCASS 1663)

BOOK: Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. New York: Modern Library, 1999.
PR 6005 O4 H4 1999

Option 3: Racism and Apartheid (used with *Black and White in Color*)

FILM: *Cry, the Beloved Country* DVD 9291

BOOK: Van Woerden, Henk. *A Mouthful of Glass*. London: Granta Books, 2000.
PT 5881.33 O314 M6613 2000

Option 4: Independence Struggles (used with *Lumumba*)

FILM: *Cry Freedom* DVD 138

BOOK: Biko, Steve. *I Write What I Like: Selected Writings*. London: Bowerdean Press, 1978.
DT 763 B48 1978

Option 5, choice 1: Governance and Violence (used with *Sometimes in April*)

FILM: *Hotel Rwanda* DVD 3702

BOOK: Gourevitch, Philip. *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our Families: Stories from Rwanda*. New York: Picador, 1998. (p. 5-171.) DT 450.435 G68 1998

Option 6, choice 2: Governance and Violence (used with *General Idi Amin Dada*)

FILM: *The Devil Came on Horseback* DVD 6451

BOOK: Eggers, David. *What is the What?* New York, First Vintage Books, 2006.

PS 3605 G48 W43 2006

Option 7: Gender in Africa (used with *Moolade*)

FILM: *Yesterday* DVD 5250

BOOK: Maathai, Wangari. *Unbowed: A Memoir*. New York: Random House, 2006.

SB 63 M22 A3 2006

Course Schedule:

Part One: African Origins and Pre-Colonial Africa

Week One: Introduction to Africa

- Aug. 25 Lecture: Film analysis and Stereotypes of Africa
Reading: *Key Events Africa: An Overview, Chapters 1 and 2*
Mandatory Article: <http://www.africaaction.org/talking-about-tribe.html>

Week Two: Images of Africa

- Aug. 30 Lecture: African Origins/ Civilizations
FILM: *The African Side (75 min)*
- Sep. 1 **FILM:** *The African Side cont /discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 3, 4, and 5*
Assignment: Black Board Discussion 1: (deadline Sept 2 at midnight)

Week Three: African Civilizations

- Sep. 6 **FILM:** *Lost Kingdoms of Africa: Nubia (60min)*
- Sep. 8 **FILM:** *Egypt Exposed: The True Origins of Civilizations (80min)*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 7, 8, and 9*

Week Four: African Civilizations cont.

- Sep. 13 **FILM:** *Egypt Exposed: The True Origins of Civilizations cont/discussion*
- Sep. 15 **FILM:** *Lost Kingdoms of Africa: Great Zimbabwe (60min)/ discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 10, 11, 12*
Assignment: Black Board Discussion 2: (deadline Sept 16 at midnight)

Week Five: Early African Contact with Europe

- Sep. 20 Lecture: Africa's Contact with Europe
FILM: *Mountains of the Moon (136 min)*
- Sep. 22 **FILM:** *Mountains of the Moon cont/discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 10, 11, 12; Women's War Chapter 2*

Part Two: Colonial Africa

Week Six: Colonialism in Africa

- Sep 27 Lecture: "Scramble for Africa"
FILM: *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death (84 min)*

****Mandatory public lecture in the evening.**

2011 Africa Distinguished Lecture

Professor Augustine Agwuele, Department of Anthropology, San Marcos

- Sep 28 **FILM:** *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death cont / discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 16, 17, 18*
Women's War Chapter 3
Assignment: Black Board Discussion 3: (deadline Sep 30 at midnight)

Week Seven: Racism and Apartheid

- Oct 4 Lecture: Racism and Apartheid
FILM: *Black and White in Color (90 min)*

PUBLIC LECTURE REVIEW DUE

- Oct 6 **FILM:** *Black and White in Color cont/ discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 20, 21, 36*
Women's War Chapter 4

Week Eight: Independence Struggles

- Oct 11 Lecture: Independence and African Radicalism
FILM: *Lumumba (115 min)*
- Oct 14 **FILM:** *Lumumba (115 min) cont.*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 22, 23, 29*
Women's War Chapter 5
Assignment: Black Board Discussion 4: (deadline Oct 15 at midnight)

Week Nine: Independence Struggles cont.

- Oct 18 **FILM:** *Lumumba discussion/exam questions*
- Oct 20 **EXAM # 1**

Part Three: Independent Africa

Week Ten: Governance and Violence in Africa

Oct 25 Lecture: Independent Africa
FILM: *General Idi Amin Dada (90 Min)*

Oct 27 **FILM:** *General Idi Amin Dada (90 Min) cont/discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 24, 25, 26*
Start Reading Selected Book for Response Paper

Week Eleven: Governance and Violence cont.

Nov 1 **FILM:** *Sometimes in April (140 min)*

Nov 3 **FILM:** *Sometimes in April (140 min) cont/discussion*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 32, 34*
Assignment: Black Board Discussion 5: (deadline Nov 4 at midnight)

Week Twelve: Gender

Nov 8 Lecture: Contemporary Issues in Africa/ Response Paper Instructions

Nov 10 **FILM:** *Moolade (124min)*
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 30, 31*

Week Thirteen: Globalization and Africa

Nov 15 **FILM:** *Moolade cont / discussion*

Nov 17 **FILM:** *End of the Rainbow (83 min)*
Reading:

Week Fourteen:

Nov 22 **FILM:** *End of the Rainbow cont / discussion*
SUBMIT REVIEW PROJECT

Nov 24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
Reading: *Key Events Chapters 27, 28, 33*
Assignment: Black Board Discussion 6: (deadline Nov 28 at midnight)

Week Fifteen: Contemporary Problems

Nov 29 **FILM:** *The Wooden Camera (92 min)*

Dec 1 **FILM:** *The Wooden Camera (92 min) cont / discussion*

Final Exam: